

Message Text

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SUBJ: HONDURAS DISASTER--UNICEF ASSISTANCE

1. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE, DATED JANUARY 7, 1975 AND
ISSUED BY UN ANNOUNCES A \$1.5 MILLION UNICEF PROGRAM
OF ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN AREAS AFFECTED
BY THE RECENT HURRICANE AND FLOOD IN HONDURAS. THIS
PROGRAM IS FOR POST-DISASTER REHABILITATION AND SPECIAL
ASSISTANCE THAT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 1975.

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THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) HAS ANNOUNCED
DETAILS OF A \$1.5 MILLION PROGRAMME OF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
AND REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN AREAS AFFECTED
BY THE RECENT HURRICANE AND FLOOD IN HONDURAS. UNICEF BEGAN
PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF DURING THE FIRST DAYS OF THE
DISASTER THE NEW PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF POST-DISASTER
REHABILITATION ALREADY UNDERWAY AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE THAT
WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE END OF 1975.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PALNNED PROGRAMME IS CONTAINED IN A
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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNICEF, RELEASED AT

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS. (DOCUMENT E/ICEF/L.1311).
IN THE NOTE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HENRY R. LABOUISSIE,
APPEALS TO ALL GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE DONOR ORGANIZATIONS AND
THE PUBLIC TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR
HONDURAS. A TOTAL OF \$400,000 HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE
AVAILABLE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EMERGENCY
RESERVE, FROM FUNDS CHanneled THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE, AND BY A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION MADE
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. THE REMAINING \$1.1 MILLION
HAS YET TO BE RAISED BY SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IF THE PROGRAMMES
PLANNED BY UNICEF AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS ARE TO BE
FULLY CARRIED OUT.

THE HONDURAS PROGRAMME IS ONE IN A SERIES OF SPECIAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED BY UNICEF
TO AID THE COUNTRIES MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE
CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS.

THE PROGRAMMES WITH WHICH UNICEF IS ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT
OF HONDURAS INCLUDE:

--PROVIDING 26,000 FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE HURRICANE AND
FLOODS WITH IMPLEMENTS TO WORK THEIR LAND AND PRODUCE SOME
FOOD, PLUS TOOLS TO HELP IN REPAIR OF THEIR HOMES;

--COMMUNITIES ARE BEING PROVIDED IMPLEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY
GARDENS, POWER CULTIVATORS AND IRRIGATION PUMPS TO INCREASE
COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION, AND SEWING MACHINES FOR COMMUNITY
CENTRES;

--SOME 200 CHILDREN LST THEIR PARENTS IN THE HURRICANE,
OTHER FAMILIES LOST CHILDREN. UNICEF IS SUPPORTING THE PLACING
OF ORPHANED CHILDREN WITH SUCH FACILITIES SO THEY CAN BE
CARED FOR IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, IN FAMILIAR
SURROUNDINGS;

-HEALTH EQUIPMENT AND MIDWIFERY KITS ARE BEING PROVIDED
TO HELP REHABILITATE NUTRITION CENTRES AND HEALTH POSTS.
THE TRAINING OF MIDWIVES IS BEING ACCELERATED AND COMMUNITY
LEADERS TRAINED IN NUTRITION AND PREPARATION OF FOODS;
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--CASH PROGRAMMES ARE UNDERWAY TO REPAIR SOME 300 VILLAGE
WELLS AND 4,000 LATRINES. IF FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE, UNICEF
WILL ASSIST WITH A MORE EXTENSIVE WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME
BY PROVIDING CRILLING EQUIPMENT, PUMPS AND PIPING;

--SOME 160 PRIMARY SCHOOLS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGED AND
44 COMPLETELY DESTROYED; UNICEF IS PROVIDING EQUIPMENT AND

SUPPLIES TO ENABLE THESE SCHOOLS TO REOPEN FOR THE NEXT
SCHOLASTIC YEAR IN FEBRUARY 1975;

--UNICEF, WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO), WILL ASSIST WITH
THE INTRODUCTION OF AN AGRICULTURAL ORIENTED SYLLABUS
INTO THE SCHOOLS;

--ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR TRAINING YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO--AS A RESULT OF THE DISASTER--WILL NOW HAVE MORE
DIFFICULTY FINDING EMPLOYMENT. UNQTE
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